

Jobs for Montana's Graduates

Education for Life

December 2007

Fall Leadership Conference A Smashing Success!

The 2007 Montana Career Association's Fall Leadership Conference held in Helena on October 24, 2007 brought together almost three hundred people representing educators and students in JMG programs throughout Montana, state and community leaders from a variety of career fields, and nationally renowned speaker, consultant, and author, Bill Cordes.

The Montana Career Association (MCA) is a central component of the JMG program and focuses on career, civic, leadership, and social activities. The MCA Fall Leadership Conference exposes MCA student officers to a national keynote speaker teaching leadership concepts during a half day workshop. This year, JMG students and teachers were challenged and entertained by Bill Cordes' powerful leadership presentation, the YOGOWYPI Factor (You Only Get Out What You Put In).

MCA student officers then engaged in great conversations during a luncheon with state and local leaders who shared their career journeys and lessons learned. Table hosts represented a variety of career backgrounds such as Harry Beauchamp, an archeologist and Pipe Holder of the Assiniboine Medicine Lodge Society; Curtis Grevanitz, the meteorologist at KTVH; and Anna Whiting-Sorrell, a Policy Advisor to the Governor of Montana. Feedback from the JMG teachers, students and community leaders was overwhelmingly positive. Some of the comments are listed below:

- *"Very enjoyable and interesting. I was impressed by the thoughtfulness of the students!"*
- *"I had a great interactions and two of my original students came back at the end to thank me and one who needed a little more support came back and felt comfortable enough to ask for it."*
- *"It was great!" "Thank you for the opportunity!"*



Andy Hunthausen, Lewis and Clark County Commissioner, visits with a group of JMG students at the luncheon that was held in conjunction with the Fall Leadership Conference at the Red Lion Hotel in Helena. Over 300 students, career specialists, special guests and chaperones attended this 14th Annual MCA event.



Students representing Montana at the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. this past week were: Ashlee Steed-Douglas, Helena PAL; Loren Robinson, Whitefish Independent; Finale Ayers, Helena PAL; Kim Ferderer, Plains; and Lorraine Zamzow, Libby Central. Others in attendance were Kelly Chapman, Vice President of Foundation Activities, Student Assistance Foundation; Career Specialists, Laura McCrohan, Libby Central; and Ray Boksich, Whitefish Independent; State Director, Drea Brown, and Program Manager, Lucille Thomason from Central Office. The students competed in competitive events, attended leadership workshops and visited the many memorials and museums throughout the 5-day event!

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School Highlights

Judith Gap

"Our numbers may be small but our effort is mighty!" remarked Sandy Woldstad, the Career Specialist at Judith Gap High School. JMG students are busy beavers as they helped prepare, cook and serve Thanksgiving Dinner to the elementary and high school as well as the local senior citizens. All were invited to join the JMG class for turkey dinner that was held on Thursday, November 15th. "We made the dessert a day ahead and cooked all morning to have the feast ready by 11:00 a.m. that day." It was well received and appreciated by all.

As another service project, we cut Christmas trees for teachers who wanted them for their classrooms. A local rancher let us onto his land to harvest the trees, which added a nice fresh scent to those classrooms.

The holidays are also a time when we get a leadership project fulfilled. We sponsor a Fun Day for the high school where we plan, organize and lead activities for the other students on the last day of school before Christmas break. This gives the JMG students a chance to shine in front of their peers. Each year we try to do something new and consider the requests of the teachers when scheduling, so we still have to get a little work completed by the deadline. Everyone involved appreciates the efforts and enjoys the activities.

After the first of the year, we will get back to heavy duty classroom work to cover all of the competencies that the curriculum requires, but until then...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from Judith Gap!



Pictured above are the Judith Gap students after a day of harvesting Christmas Trees for the teachers at the school. The trees added a special touch to the classrooms and smelled great too!

Casey Palmer, JMG student from Culbertson, reads to a nursing home resident. The students spent the afternoon visiting and reading with residents of the Culbertson Nursing Home.



About Finding A Job

On November 22nd Joe Barbero, Career Specialist at the Billings Career Center, reported that the JMG program conducted the 3rd Annual "About Finding a Job" project. This project had all of the 70 JMG students involved in some capacity. The students assisted the maintenance staff in setting up tables and chairs, guiding traffic in the parking lots, preparing and serving lunches, conducting interviews, helping at the ice cream tables, tearing down tables and cleaning floors.

The "About Finding a Job" project had 635 junior and senior students participating in a professional interview conducted by 45 Human Resource professionals from the Billings business community. In a follow-up survey, 97% of the students thought that the interview went well; 93% agreed that this school project would help them get a job in the future; 91% of the students thought the book, "About Finding a Job", will be helpful as a reference; All the students who participated were required to have a resume and cover letter prepared; were coached by instructors previous to the interview; and all went through a post-interview evaluation to get feedback and comments.



Dan Wooley and Tirzah Bruski, Career Specialists at Capital High School, held their freshmen Initiation and Installation ceremony in the cafeteria on Thursday, December 6th. There were over 75 students, teachers and special guests in attendance, including Walt Chauncey, assistant principal, who remarked, "This program really works!"

Bridger Career Fair



Pictured above is Caitlin Goetz, JMG student from Bridger and Amy, an assistant Veterinarian with Laurel East Vet Services, of Laurel. The photo was taken at the Career Fair that was planned and organized by Bridger's JMG class. There were 20 schools and over 100 presenters in attendance at the event that was held in Billings on Wednesday, November 14th. Vicki Kaufman, Career Specialist at Bridger said the evaluations from the 10th Annual event were very positive.

Alumni Spotlight



Nyle Obergfell, former JMG student President from Culbertson, recently became a state Highway Patrol Officer for eastern Montana. Nyle said, "I believe that my success in the hiring process can be related to the skills I learned in JMG." He further added, "the Highway Patrol had a very long hiring process and without the resume and the interview skills I learned in JMG, I don't think I would have made it."



Winning Logo

The winning Logo Design at this year's Fall Leadership Conference was the one above and created by the North Star High School in Rudyard. The design will be used on all materials for the Career Development Conference that will be held in Billings in May.

The Montana JMG program once again achieved the "5 of 5" Performance Outcome including a 96% Graduation Rate! Our hats go off to all the Career Specialists, as they are the lifeline of the program.

Butte High JMG



Butte High JMG students take part in a group initiative called "Toxic Transfer". Amy Stops, Career Specialist, stated that "33 kids worked together to complete this leadership and teamwork activity". The students discovered the best way to get the job done and completed the initiative with great success! Amy said she was proud of them and mentioned that the year was off to a good start!



Guests invited to Lame Deer's Initiation and Installation Ceremony enjoy the meal served following the event.



The Helena High JMG classes have been very busy this year with their civic awareness and service learning projects, including: Special Olympics Basketball Tournament; Festival of Trees project; Creating Pumpkins for the elderly; as well as this photo taken from their recent Initiation and Installation ceremony.



Harry Beauchamp, archeologist and Pipe Holder from the Assiniboiné Nation and the Medicine Lodge Society, was the guest speaker at the Initiation & Installation ceremony at Helena PAL on November 13.



Taking a break from the recent Career Fair in Billings were these students from Bridger: Bailee Vaughn, Leann Dorvall, Dan Witt and Colton Appell.



Emily Eiland and Brittne Wersal of Glasgow High School JMG are pictured above with Bill Cordes, the Fall Leadership keynote speaker.



Working on a teamwork activity from the Culbertson Middle School JMG program are: Zach Thorpe, Christian Damm and Levi Haren.



Sonja Haren, Culbertson JMG student, reads to a nursing home resident from Culbertson.



Helena High JMG classes spent many hours working on decorating their trees for the annual Festival of Trees auction. Here is one of the many entires submitted by Lisa Parker's program.



Glasgow JMG students Logan Hicks and Jake Knaff are seen here in the cleanup efforts following the Valley County Fair.



In the above photo, Glasgow students are working together on a teamwork activity in their JMG class.



Alex Veach and Josh Dobbs clown around before their Initiation and Installation ceremony at Capital High School, Helena.



At left Turzah Bruski, Career Specialist at Capital High, and Kyle Pettit prepare the serving table for their I & I.



Helena High JMG students dressed up to deliver pumpkins for their annual civic project for the elderly.

From all of us at Central Office we want to wish you a very joyous Holiday Season and Happy New Year!

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